Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria
Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi Villages, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq

Update: as of 10 February 2020

Background and Methodology
Due to the worsening security situation inside Syria, REACH Initiative (REACH) is conducting rapid assessments to monitor the influx and needs of Syrian refugees recently displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In order to inform and provide an evidence-base for humanitarian planning, the REACH Iraq team launched data collection close to the Syrian border, to capture the demographics, needs and displacement history of those crossing from Syria into the areas surrounding Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi villages in the KR-I. To gather this information, REACH conducted key informant (KI) interviews, with one nominated KI per travel group responding on behalf of the travel group.

This 22nd output reflects data collected in Sahila on between 4-6 and 8-9 of February 2020. In total, 41 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (252 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs and only on specific days, results should be considered indicative and are not statistically representative.

Displacement Figures
Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October 2019: 20,521.1
Total reported daily numbers of individuals arriving to screening points: 1

Situation Overview
Since the outbreak of conflict on 9 October 2019, residents of Northeast Syria (NES) are experiencing a new humanitarian crisis, resulting in massive displacement from the region, both internally and, to a lesser extent, towards the KR-I. As of 18 December 2019, the UN estimated that 70,590 people 1 remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 20,521 refugees 1 crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 10 February. Days after a ceasefire agreement was reached on 17 October, a sharp decrease in daily refugee arrivals was observed. New refugee arrivals have been screened between the villages of Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in the KR-I, and have then been moved to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration.

There were on average 42 new arrivals per day over the last week, which is a slight increase compared to the previous month. Numbers have been fluctuating on a daily basis, which may in part be due to adverse weather conditions. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Quamishli, Ain Al-Arab, Al-Malikeyyeh, and Ain Al-Arab (Syria) to Al-Walid, Kelha and Sahela villages (Syria).

Patterns of Displacement Map
Phase 1: Displacement from most recent sub-district of residence
Phase 2: Border crossing from border villages (Syria) to Al-Walid, Kelha and Sahela
Phase 3: Movement by bus to Bardarash and Gawilan camps

1 Based on information received from UNHCR
2 OCHA, Syria Flash Update #12, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 1-19 November 2019
3 OCHA, Syria Flash Update #7, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 16-18 October 2019
All KIs, except for one, reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria, as was reported in previous updates. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 150 USD per person (903 USD per group), which is similar to the former updates. Most KIs reported no food (83%) and no water (68%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Seven percent (7%) of the travel groups had reportedly travelled for more than seven days, compared to 25% in the last round and 32% in the one before it.

Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

Average size of travel groups as indicated by KIs: 6

Demographic breakdown by age and gender as reported by KIs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Over 60</th>
<th>18-60</th>
<th>0-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Vulnerable Groups

Proportion of travel group members identified as vulnerable as indicated by KIs:

- 13% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 2% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 31% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

85% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:

- Quamishli 24%
- Ain Al-Arab 20%
- Afrin 12%
- Ras Al-Ain 12%

Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:

- Airstrikes 34%
- Arrival of armed forces 29%
- Lack of livelihood 20%
- Joining the family 7%

Duration of Displacement Stages

17% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

- 0% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.
- 7% of KIs reported having spent more than eight hours at screening point in the villages of Al-Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in KR-I.

Time since leaving previous residence:

- More than seven days 7%
- Four to seven days 2%
- Two to three days 64%
- One day 27%

Demographic breakdown by age and gender as reported by KIs:

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Reported reasons for choice of displacement route, according to KIs:

- Perceived safest route 98%
- Shortest route to destination 2%

Most commonly reported primary modes of transport travel groups used to crossing point from most recent residence location, according to KIs:

- Foot 85%
- Horse 15%

Secondary Displacement

20% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.
**Humanitarian Needs**

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs\(^4\):

<table>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Identification papers</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs\(^5\).

**Movement Intentions**

KIs were asked about the intentions of their travel groups both in the short term (in the two days following their arrival) and in the intermediate term (in the two weeks following data collection).

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following data collection, 100% of KIs reported that they will be staying in camps.

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following data collection, more than half (73%) of KIs reported intending to join family or friends in KR-I within this timeframe, while 20% reported intending to stay in the camps, and 7% were unsure.

100% of KIs indicated that no member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

**Short-Term Intentions**

Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following date of interview, according to KIs:

- Camp 100%

**Intermediate-Term Intentions**

Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs\(^6\):

- Join family/friends in KR-I 73%
- Camp 20%
- Do not know 7%

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\(^4\) KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

\(^5\) The most commonly reported reason for travel group members to not bring identification papers was that they were too young to have individual personal identification documents.

\(^6\) Movement intentions of travel groups in the next two weeks were only asked to respondents who had indicated that they intended to move to a camp or options other than joining family and friends in KR-I or Dohuk in the next two days.